

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (cancelled)

- 5 7. (previously presented) A method for generating a watermark
on a photo picture using a thermal printer; the thermal
printer comprising a thermal printhead for heating an ink
ribbon and generating an image through the ink ribbon on a
photo picture; the ink ribbon comprising a plurality of
10 sequentially arranged color frames, each color frame
comprising a plurality of dye frames with different color
dyes and a dye frame with overcoating; the method comprising:
using the thermal printhead to heat a color frame with a
plurality of different color dyes and to sublimate the
15 color dyes on a photo picture; and
using the thermal printhead to heat at least two different
areas of the overcoating dye frame by at least two
distinct time periods to dispose overcoating in at
least two distinct thicknesses corresponding to the
20 two distinct time periods to form a watermark image
over the sublimated colored dye of the photo picture.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 further
comprising dividing the photo picture into two portions,
25 wherein thin overcoating is printed on one portion and thick
overcoating is printed on another portion to form the
watermark image.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the
30 watermark image is selected from a group consisting of: a
printed-letter watermark, a hidden information watermark,
a signature, and a special pattern.